

William Harris Crawford to John Coffee, January 27, 1816, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY CRAWFORD TO JACKSON.1

1 War Dept. files. This letter was published in the *Globe* (Washington), semi-weekly, Oct. 23, 1833. Jan. 29, 1816, Crawford wrote that Jackson was authorized to suspend the execution of this order, so far as it related to the counties of Giles and Murray, Tennessee, in order to give Congress time "to pass an act for their relief". In all other cases the President expected the promptest and most perfect execution of the order.

Department of War, January 27, 1816.

Sir, The general and increasing disposition manifested by a numerous body of uninformed or evil disposed persons to violate the laws of the United States, prohibiting the intrusion and settlement upon the public lands, has imposed upon the President the painful duty of removing them by a military force. This duty is confided to you. Immediately after the expiration of the term fixed in the inclosed proclamation, you will, upon the application of the marshal of any state or territory, cause to be removed by military force, all persons who shall be found upon the public lands within your command, and destroy their habitations and improvements. This removal and destruction of houses and improvements must be repeated as often as it shall be necessary to secure the complete execution of the laws upon this subject.

Intrusion upon the lands of the friendly Indian tribes, is not only a violation of the laws, but in direct opposition to the policy of the government towards its savage neighbours. Upon application of any Indian agent, stating that intrusions of this nature have been

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committed, and are continued, the President requires, that they shall be equally removed, and their houses and improvements destroyed by military force; and that every attempt to return, shall be repressed in the same manner.

I have the honor to be, etc.